

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 1029

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

CURRICULA: Provides relative to instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(d), 274, 274.1, and 3996(B)(14) and to repeal
3 R.S. 17:3996(B)(13), relative to curricula; to provide for Free Enterprise as an
4 elective course rather than a prerequisite to high school graduation; to require
5 inclusion of Free Enterprise instruction in the required Civics course; to provide
6 relative to the duration and credit units of the Civics course; to provide for
7 exceptions; to delete Free Enterprise from course requirements relative to the career
8 major program; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(d), 274, 274.1, and 3996(B)(14) are hereby amended
11 and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

13 * * *

14 B.

15 * * *

16 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the
17 following:

18 * * *

19 (d) At least three social studies credits, including one unit of American
20 History and one additional course selected from a list of social studies courses

1 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Each student
2 shall successfully complete ~~a course~~ coursework in Civics and Free Enterprise, as
3 ~~provided in R.S. 17:274, and Civics~~, as provided in R.S. 17:274.1.

4 * * *

5 §274. Free enterprise; ~~personal finance components~~; required elective course

6 ~~A. All public~~ Public high schools ~~shall~~ may give instruction in ~~a~~ an elective
7 course in free enterprise as ~~a prerequisite to graduation~~. ~~Instruction shall be given~~
8 in accordance with ~~the~~ a course of study prescribed by the State Board of Elementary
9 and Secondary Education for at least one semester, equal to one-half unit of credit.
10 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe suitable
11 teaching materials for the instruction.

12 ~~B.(1) As used in this Section "free enterprise" means an economic system~~
13 ~~characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that~~
14 ~~are determined by private decision rather than state control and by prices, production,~~
15 ~~and the distribution of goods that are determined in a free manner. Instruction~~
16 ~~required herewith shall emphasize the positive values of profit and competition in~~
17 ~~a free economy and the enhancement of the worth and dignity of the individual under~~
18 ~~such a system.~~

19 ~~(2)(a) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, the course of free~~
20 ~~enterprise as defined in this Subsection shall include instruction in personal finance.~~

21 ~~(b) Such instruction shall include but shall not be limited to the following~~
22 ~~components:~~

23 ~~(i) Income.~~

24 ~~(ii) Money management.~~

25 ~~(iii) Spending and credit.~~

26 ~~(iv) Savings and investing.~~

27 ~~C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt~~
28 ~~regulations to insure instruction required herewith is given to all pupils in all public~~
29 ~~high schools and local boards of education of every city, parish and school district~~

1 of this state shall schedule such instruction in accordance with said regulations of the
2 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. In-service training programs
3 shall be provided each year by the State Department of Education to assist teachers
4 who give instruction on the free enterprise system.

5 ~~D. The state superintendent of education shall have the authority at any time~~
6 ~~to waive such requirement for any person who is on active duty in the Armed Forces~~
7 ~~of the United States and who was transferred into the state during his senior year.~~
8 ~~The state superintendent of education shall also have the authority at any time to~~
9 ~~waive such requirement for any student who transfers to a school in Louisiana from~~
10 ~~any school outside the state of Louisiana during his senior year. The state~~
11 ~~superintendent of education shall have no authority to waive the teaching of the~~
12 ~~course on free enterprise for any entire high school student body.~~

13 §274.1. Civics; and Free Enterprise; required course

14 A. All public high schools shall give instruction in ~~a course in Civics~~ Civics
15 and Free Enterprise as a prerequisite to graduation. Instruction shall be given in
16 accordance with the course of study prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and
17 Secondary Education ~~for at least one semester, equal to one-half unit of credit. as~~
18 provided in this Section. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
19 shall prescribe suitable teaching materials for the instruction.

20 B.(1) For students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2011,
21 instruction in Civics shall be given for two semesters, equal to one unit of credit;
22 such instruction shall include a section on Free Enterprise.

23 (2) Students who enter the ninth grade prior to July 1, 2011, shall be allowed
24 to choose from the following:

25 (a) Instruction in Civics for two semesters, equal to one unit of credit, which
26 shall include a section on Free Enterprise.

27 (b) Instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise in separate courses, and
28 instruction shall be given in each course for one semester, equal to one-half unit of
29 credit, respectively.

C.(1) The legislature finds that the study of Free Enterprise is crucial in the development of students as thoughtful, active citizens who understand the American economic system, appreciate democratic values, and can function productively in society. The legislature further finds it appropriate that the important principles of Free Enterprise be incorporated into the Civics curriculum as essential components of the way the nation and state operate. For the purposes of this Section, "Free Enterprise" means an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision rather than state control and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined in a free manner. Such instruction shall emphasize the positive values of profit and competition in a free economy and the enhancement of the worth and dignity of the individual under such a system.

(2) Free Enterprise instruction shall include coursework on personal finance, which shall include but not be limited to the following components:

- (a) Income.
- (b) Money management.
- (c) Spending and credit.
- (d) Savings and investing.

* * *

§3996. Charter schools; exemptions

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

1 (14) Teaching regarding ~~Civics~~ Civics and Free Enterprise, R.S. 17:274.1.

2 * * *

3 Section 2. R.S. 17:3996(B)(13) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hoffmann

HB No. 1029

Abstract: Provides for Free Enterprise as an elective course rather than a prerequisite to high school graduation and requires that Free Enterprise instruction be included in Civics; expands the Civics requirement to one full year; delays implementation until 2011-2012 school year; allows certain students a choice as to how to fulfill Civics and Free Enterprise course requirements.

Present law requires public high schools to provide instruction in a course in Civics and a course in Free Enterprise as prerequisites to graduation, each for at least one semester and 1/2 credit unit. Proposed law increases Civics requirement from one semester to two semesters and from 1/2 to one credit unit, makes Free Enterprise an elective rather than a required course, and requires that a section on Free Enterprise be included in Civics. Provides for implementation based on when students enter the ninth grade, as follows:

- (1) On or after July 1, 2011: Civics for two semesters for one credit unit, including a Free Enterprise section.
- (2) Prior to July 1, 2011: A choice between the following:
 - (a) Civics for two semesters, for one credit unit, including a Free Enterprise section.
 - (b) Civics and Free Enterprise in separate courses, for one semester and for 1/2 credit unit, respectively.

Present law provides for Civics and Free Enterprise course requirements relative to the high school career major. Proposed law retains requirements for coursework in both Civics and Free Enterprise but does not specify relative to a separate required course in each. Present law requires charter schools to offer instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise. Proposed law retains present law, subject to changes made by proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(d), 274, 274.1, and 3996(B)(14); Repeals R.S. 17:3996(B)(13))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Removed references to Civics and Free Enterprise course requirements relative to TOPS.
2. Changed Free Enterprise to an elective course instead of deleting the Free Enterprise course altogether.

3. Added legislative findings relative to Free Enterprise.
4. Instead of excepting certain students from the requirement to take Civics as one course, requires students entering ninth grade after July 1, 2011, to do so and allows students entering ninth grade prior to that date a choice as to how to fulfill Civics and Free Enterprise course requirements.